to enable the bank to raise equity from the market to enhance its capital and to achieve prescribed levels of higher capital adequacy norms.

**Ten per cent cut for the NE Region**

119. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the 10% cut from the different Department of Central Government for the North East Region is not agreed by some Departments;

(b) If so, the names of the departments, and if not the amount collected in the current year so far; and

(c) Whether it is a fact that the amount of the former Prime Minister's package of the North-East States has to be adjusted with 10% cut from the different departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) All Central Ministries/Departments are required to spend 10% of their Plan budget on schemes/projects for the benefit of the North Eastern Region and Sikkim. Some Departments have been specifically exempted from the requirement by the Planning Commission because of the location/scheme specific nature of the plan provision in their grants. Shortfalls in meeting this target is to be pooled in a Central Resource Pool. Last year, Rs. 121.95 crore was released for such schemes/projects, including those covered by the former Prime Minister's package for North Eastern States. For the current year, the outcome would be reflected in the Revised Estimates for 1999-2000 to be presented alongwith the ensuing budget.